

THE

QUEEN OF DENMARK

A. C. COOKE

DEPT. OF THE ARMY

1883

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
EARL OF

My Lord,

FROM the many proofs you have
 given of attachment to my family;
 and also from those more particular
 marks of kindness and regard which
 you have always manifested for my per-
 son; I am induced to submit the fol-
 lowing defence of my conduct, with re-
 spect to the false and malicious accusa-
 tions which are brought against me (and
 in consequence of which I have been
 unjustly imprisoned) to your lordship's
 consideration. I am moreover led to
 single out your lordship on this occa-
 sion, from the high character you bear,
 as a man of the most acknowledged

candour, as well as abilities; and on whole opinion the world in general lay the greatest stress. And I doubt not, but that when my countrymen shall know that you are fully convinced of my innocence (which I trust you will be, on perusing the following state of my unhappy case) they will instantly divert themselves of those prejudices, which I hear many of them have too readily imbibed; in consequence of those malicious reports, my enemies have so industriously circulated thro' the kingdom. The thoughts of the injury my reputation suffers with my countrymen, add to the miseries of degradation and confinement: and were it not for the consciousness of not having merited my present sufferings, I should inevitably sink under the accumulated load.

But having thus far premised, I shall now advert to the defence of myself against the accusations laid by my enemies.

The crimes laid to my charge (I now find, but was not acquainted with the nature

nature of them till some time after my being first confined) are, that I have been guilty of plotting against the king, my husband, in order to dispossess him of his crown: that in concert with the counts Struensee, Brandt, and others, I had actually drawn up an act of renunciation, which it was my intention to oblige his majesty to sign by force, whenever we, the conspirators, should have secured his person, which design (it is pretended) we were on the point of putting into execution, at the very time we were arrested by the king's order. And lastly, that I have been guilty of infidelity to the king, my husband's bed, with the aforesaid count Struensee. These are the accusations which are made the foundation of my imprisonment; but there are several others of a more frivolous nature, which I shall take notice of in their proper place, they not being deemed crimes of state.

I am sensible of the great disadvantage I labour under in the defence, to be

made against these accusations, on account of the utter impossibility of proving a negative; yet I conceive that, if I can prove the whole proceedings against me to have been arbitrary and unjust in every part of them (and this I think I shall not fail to do) and that the evidence on which my enemies alledge I was convicted, is far from being conclusive and satisfactory; I conceive, I say, that the natural inference will be, that those who sought my ruin, were obliged to strain every point of law and justice to accomplish their wicked intentions. I shall subjoin to this account some few observations, on the improbability of my being guilty of the crimes abovementioned.

And first, then, for the circumstances of my being arrested; at the time when this order for my detention was made, no person had been examined with respect to the charges against me; consequently I was confined without even the shadow of a case for such confinement. It may be alledged, that it was necessary

I should

I should be arrested at the same time with the other persons, lest I should have attempted to escape on the first news of their being seized; and also that, as a person equally concerned with the others in the conspiracy, I was not entitled to any greater indulgence than they experienced in that case. To this I answer, that as I was one of the parties meant to be accused, my enemies would have kept so strict a watch over me, as to have made my escape impracticable; and the less cause could they have to apprehend my escaping, when those very persons, who (according to them) were my accomplices, and should assist me in such design, would be incapacitated by their own confinement. But the following circumstance is still more material than the foregoing one: the order from the king for my arrestment was forced from him by the queen Dowager and prince Frederick; for when they first presented to him the above order for his signature, he peremptorily refused to sign it, and persisted

sisted in such refusal, till such time as the queen threatened, that in case he would not comply with their desire, that her son and herself would sign it: then the unhappy king, perceiving no doubt that he was intirely divested of every thing but the shadow of royalty, and so far in the power of his mother and brother, that his own safety was doubtful, unless he obeyed their mandates, with a trembling hand and aching heart signed the order for my being delivered into the hands of my enemies. It is to be observed here, that the king would not consent to sign the order, even after the queen and prince both had assured him that the conspirators and myself had determined to oblige him to abdicate the crown; a plain proof that he judged me incapable of entertaining any such design. The order being thus surreptitiously obtained, it was delivered to count Rantzau to be executed by him: it had been obtained by force, it was executed with (I must say) brutality: I will not assert, that he had received

ceived instructions to behave in the barbarous manner he did; but I must own, that till now, I never looked upon the count in any other light than that of a humane man, and a gentleman. The count gave me very little time to prepare myself for my imprisonment, and when the hour of my departure from the court arrived, he handed (or rather thrust me) into a coach, which conveyed me to the castle of Cronenburg, the place destined for my prison. But before I left the palace, I strenuously insisted on having an interview with the king, my husband: but this liberty count Rantzau as positively refused me; and when some of the officers who accompanied him seemed inclinable to comply with my demand, the count dissuaded them, by asserting, that the loss of their heads would be the inevitable consequence of my seeing his majesty. These words of the count's give me great cause to suspect, that the seizure of my person was effected, previous to the order for that purpose being signed

ed by the king; and that the count acted throughout that affair, under the orders of the queen Dowager and prince Frederick only, without the participation of his majesty therein: for it cannot possibly be supposed, that the count and the other officers could run any risque, in executing such orders as the king himself had issued. There are two other circumstances, which strongly confirm me in the foregoing conjecture: the first is, that the order for my being arrested was not produced till some time after the execution of such order: the second, that colonel Roller, at the time he arrested count Struensee, acknowledged that he had not the king's order for it then in his possession; but added, that he would answer with his life, for what he was then doing. If the above conjecture should be well founded, it must then follow, that the queen Dowager and her son had predetermined, either to obtain the king's signature at all events; or, in case they should find themselves frustrated in that attempt, to render

render his opposition to their measures of no effect, by deposing him at the same time that they seized on my person. When I had remained in custody a few hours in the palace, I was removed from thence to Kronenburg castle; purposely to prevent my making any application to the king, my husband: at the same time that I was removed from the palace, every person who had any influence with his majesty, and who was known to be my friend, was put under arrest; doubtless with a view to prevent their doing me any kind offices with his majesty; who being thus left with none but my enemies to attend his person, and obliged to submit to all their mandates, as well knowing from the late specimen how much he was in their power; he, I say, thus circumstanced, was constrained to give every act of theirs the sanction of his authority. That several persons were put under arrest upon the account I hinted at above, appears plainly from their having been discharged from their confine-

ment, for want of even the shadow of an accusation against them, before the committee of enquiry. Some of them have since had pensions bestowed on them, as some amends (I imagine) for the indignity and injustice of their imprisonment. I shall next make some strictures on the proceedings of the court of enquiry, instituted for the trial of the persons concerned in the (pretended) conspiracy.

And first, for the nature of the evidence which was given before them; I mean, that part which regarded me. It has been positively asserted by my enemies, that the crimes alledged against me, were proved to the full satisfaction of my judges: that those judges felt a satisfaction, in having even the shadow of a proof whereon to convict me, I firmly believe; but as positively do I deny this assertion of my foes, if taken in the sense they would affix to it. The evidence on which I have been convicted (say they) consists of the confessions of the persons who were adjudged to be

be my accomplices: this circumstance might have carried some weight with it, if the said confessions had been voluntarily made by the several parties; but when it is considered, that those confessions were drawn from them at a time when they were in the midst of torments, at the bare mention of which nature shrinks back with horror; I am persuaded every impartial person will admit, that proofs of a very different kind ought to have been produced, in order to warrant my judges in their conviction of me. The conduct of this court of enquiry was to the highest degree unjustifiable in another respect; the secrecy with which all their proceedings were carried on, is what I hint at here. The lowest subject ought to be allowed the privilege of a fair and open trial; and this is also a justice due to the public in general, who always should be made acquainted with the grounds of any accusation of consequence, which may be brought against an individual: the whole Danish nation

was peculiarly interested in the present case, both from the nature of the accusations, and also from the rank and connections of the parties accused. Yet, not the least circumstance of what passed before this court of enquiry was suffered to transpire, till the whole proceedings were finished; and when colonel Keith demanded (as the representative of the king, my brother) leave to be present at the examination of the prisoners, it was peremptorily refused him. The reason for such conduct is, I think, very apparent, therefore I shall here drop all farther comment on it, and shall finish this part of my subject with observing that, when I consider the known enmity to my person, both of the members of that court, and also of those by whose directions all their steps throughout the whole business were guided; I say, that when I reflect on these circumstances, I look up to God with a heart penetrated with gratitude, for having suffered me to escape from their hands even with my life. And
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here let me not forget also to acknowledge my obligations to colonel Keith, for his spirited conduct in my defence, which I am certain was (under God) the means of preventing my enemies from carrying their barbarous and wicked designs to a much greater length than they have done.

I have now laid before your lordship a state of the proceedings, from the time of my being seized, to the breaking up of the court of enquiry: and your lordship will observe, that the reflections I have made in the course of my narrative, are such only, as have naturally arose out of the matter before me. I repeat, what I observed to you, at the beginning of this letter, concerning the disadvantages I lay under, with regard to the proof of a negative; but am in hopes you will be convinced from the perusal of the foregoing relation, that I have been grossly injured, and deprived of those privileges which I was intitled to, in the double character of joint sovereign of the state, and subject
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of the king. I shall next proceed to offer some reasons for the improbability of my being guilty of the crimes laid to my charge. To begin then with the charge of my being concerned in a conspiracy to depose the king; to have engaged in a scheme of this kind, would have been giving a proof of as much weakness as of wickedness. For, even supposing that such a design had been effected, the consequences of it must have been in the highest degree disadvantageous to me; as the Danes would certainly never have submitted to be governed by me (a foreigner) in either of the capacities of queen or regent: and in that case, either the deposed king would have been again put in possession of the throne, or the succession would have been entirely altered by the advancement of prince Frederick to the crown. Thus, which ever event was to happen, my ruin would be certain; but granting that the enterprize had succeeded, and that I had been permitted to ascend the throne, I could not have

have expected to maintain an undisturbed possession of my seat. As the queen Dowager would naturally, under the pretence of reinstating the deposed king, have sought the assistance of foreign powers, to dispossess me of my assumed authority. France, whose interest at this court is, through the power of that party, very considerable, would gladly have lent her aid on this occasion: whilst England must, in justice, have withheld all assistance from the usurper, though so closely allied to her: add to this, the strong opposition I should have met with from a considerable party among the natives themselves, who are closely connected with the queen Dowager and prince Frederick. Thus surrounded with difficulties, I should have been soon worsted in the unequal contest; and, in consequence, precipitated from my airy height with the loss of power, liberty, and (most probably) life. But supposing that I could be blind in some respects to the dangers and difficulties attending such an enterprize, on
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what side was I to look for assistance in the execution of it? The army have proved, by the part they took in the late revolution, that all application to them would have been ineffectual: the greatest part of the nobility were in the interest of the queen Dowager; the common people were too much prejudiced against me, by the false and malicious insinuations thrown out by my enemies, for me to expect the least assistance from that quarter: the joy they expressed when my reverse of fortune was made known, plainly shews in what estimation I was held by them. Never yet was a national revolution effected (even attempted) in which there was not at least a considerable part, either of the army or commonalty engaged; but I am charged with having conceived the design of bringing about such a revolution, at a time when, it is apparent, the far greatest part of the nobility, and the whole of the army and commonalty, were in league against me. Thus surrounded with enemies, as powerful

erful as they were numerous ; to whom could I look for protection from their machinations, save to the king, my husband ? And can it possibly be imagined that I should be so far infatuated, as to seek to deprive him of that power, which alone could be my defence, against any designs they might form to my prejudice ? Surely, the absurdity of this charge can be equalled only by the maliciousness of it. The next accusation is of a still deeper die than the foregoing one. It was necessary to assign some motive of apparent weight for my embarking in an enterprize so replete with dangers and difficulties : my whole conduct, while at the court of Copenhagen, proves, that the thirst of power (though a frailty natural to my sex) was the foible which, of all others, I was most exempt from : I never attempted to raise a faction in my favour ; even when I could not but perceive, that there was a strong party formed against me : but, placing the utmost confidence in my own innocence, and the favour

of the king, my husband, I heard, without apprehension, the rumours of the secret cabals, in which they had been for some time engaged. My foes were therefore obliged to fix on some other motive, than merely that of a wish to encrease my power, for my attempting to dethrone the king; and accordingly suggested, that I had engaged in a criminal intercourse with count Struensee; consequently, that it had become necessary, to the safety both of the count and myself, to deprive the king of that power, which we were certain would be exercised with the utmost severity over us, in case the criminality of our conduct should at any time come to light. They hinted, that (as a strong presumption of my guilt) a resemblance of the said count, might be plainly traced in the features of the infant, my daughter. They grounded this accusation upon a (pretended) familiarity between me and the count, which (said they) was totally inconsistent with that dignity, which I ought to have maintained in all my behaviour,

haviour, as consort of the king. It is averred, that the unhappy count confessed himself to have been guilty of such criminal connection with me, in the course of his examination before the court of enquiry. I scarcely can conceive it possible, that the count could thus cast a stain upon my reputation, and his own honour, by an accusation so totally devoid of truth. But even admitting that he did make this confession, as it was avowedly forced from him by the tortures of the rack; such evidence alone, without any corroborating circumstances, ought not to have been admitted as cause sufficient for my conviction. But my judges were predetermined to condemn me, though it should be at the expence of law, justice, and reason. This proceeding surprises me the less, when I consider the influence under which they acted; for I am fully convinced, that the nomination of the members of the above court, and also certain regulations, according to which they were to proceed, were

made by the self-same authority with that, by which the king was (as I have already observed) compelled to sign the order for my arrest. It is very observable, that there is not the least suggestion thrown out against the legitimacy of the prince, my son : but I shall make this circumstance the subject of my remarks, in another part of my letter, where it will come in more regularly. To return to the accusation ; a pretended too great familiarity between the count and me, was (as I have already mentioned) the foundation on which my enemies grounded the charge of incontinency against me ; and this familiarity, they alledged, was visible to the whole court. If this had really been the case, whence happens it, that the king should be so long ignorant of such a material circumstance ? It is plain he was an entire stranger to it, at the very time of my arrest, otherwise he would never have hesitated to sign the order for that purpose. And besides, it must have been a proof of the highest degree of infatu-

infatuation in me, to have behaved with such want of circumspection, in a court, where I well knew, that a great part of the persons who appeared before me, were in the capacity of spies upon my actions. I here conclude my remarks on the more capital charges which have been brought against me; and shall next take a view of the less material accusations which my foes have, but too successfully, used all their endeavours to persuade the nation into a belief of. Those of the most consequence among them are as follows, viz. The behaving with too little affection and respect to the king: the treating the Danes in general with a kind of contempt; and lastly, the introducing stage diversions, balls, masquerades, &c. into a court, which always, till now, had been famed for the severity of its manners.

These accusations against me, my enemies spread daily throughout the whole kingdom; and whilst I, who had always endeavoured so to conduct myself, as to conciliate the esteem of the
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king in particular, and the people in general, was flattering myself, that I was in possession of their affections; my enemies had, through their base arts, rendered me an object of detestation to the generality of the nation. But to return: The first charge against me is, for behaving to the king, my husband, with too little affection and respect:— This charge I positively deny: my inclination, as well as duty, always led me to deport myself, in the manner which I thought was most likely to insure me his majesty's love and friendship: a natural gaiety in my constitution enabled me to succeed in my desires of pleasing; and his majesty would often acknowledge, that the cheerfulness of my temper proved a constant and pleasing relaxation to him, from the cares of royalty. But to show the power of malevolence, that very cheerfulness was imputed to me as a fault, by my foes, on the following occasion. I had for some time observed an apparent melancholy growing upon the king, caused by an ill
state

state of health : this melancholy, from its first appearance, I endeavoured to remove, by redoubling that vivacity, which the king had so often expressed the most hearty approbation of. But all my attempts were fruitless ; for the disorder seemed to gain ground daily ; tho' I dreaded the consequences of this disorder, and felt all that a dutiful and affectionate wife could be supposed to feel on such an occasion ; yet, as I imagined, that the king's recovery depended, in great part, on his being kept from a despondency, to which I saw him but too much inclined ; I therefore continued to keep up an appearance of cheerfulness, to which my heart was, at the same time, an entire stranger : as I hoped by such conduct to persuade his majesty into an opinion, that his disorder was of a far less dangerous nature than it appeared to be. In pursuance of this design, I have frequently rallied him on the doubts he has expressed concerning his recovery ; and when others have (under the pretence of condoling with him)

him) increased his fears, by confirming in part his sentiments on the danger of his disorder; it has been my constant practice to oppose my (pretended) more favourable opinion to theirs. Strange as it must appear to your lordship, yet I assure you, there were some persons, who (for reasons best known to themselves) were guilty of acting in the above-recited manner. As the king's distemper increased, his fears grew upon him in proportion; and he would sometimes answer me with peevishness, and a degree of asperity, when I have endeavoured to cheer his mind, by insinuating that his health was apparently mending. My enemies having observed this circumstance, determined to avail themselves of it; and accordingly suggested to him, that the levity (as they termed it) of my behaviour, at a time, when all the rest of his friends were under the greatest concern for the ill state of his health, was a proof of the utmost want of duty and affection to his person: they pretended to corroborate

borate this assertion, by alledging, that my behaviour, when in his presence, was still far less reprehensible than that to which I was accustomed, when I found myself free from that restraint: they concluded with assuring his majesty, that my conduct on this occasion had become matter of conversation to the whole court. I have the greatest reason to think, that this malicious accusation failed, at that time, of its intended effect, as I never heard the least syllable on the subject from his majesty's lips. And I feel the utmost satisfaction in reflecting, that this accusation has no foundation but in the inventive malice of my enemies.

The next charge against me is, that I have always treated the Danes in general with a degree of contempt, which they did not merit at my hands. As an answer to this charge, I shall lay before your lordship a state of my conduct in this respect, from the time of my arrival at Copenhagen. The natives received me at first with every demon-

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stration of joy; and I had flattered myself that I should, after a residence among them of some duration, confirm them in the good opinion which they seemed to have received of me from report alone. I should have also effected my wish, had it not been for the machinations of my enemies, who continually spread such calumnies concerning me, as they knew would do me most prejudice in the minds of the common people. The Danes seem, from the observations I have made on them, a very credulous people; and of this credulity my foes have taken every advantage for the furthering of their designs. In consequence of that rule, by which I proposed to be guided in my conduct, I sought every opportunity to ingratiate myself with the whole court, by a behaviour of the utmost affability. That I might avoid the imputation of attempting to raise a faction in my favour, I never made any distinction among the persons who attended the court, but behaved to every one with an equal civility

ty and regard. For the same reason, I refrained from inviting any of my own countrymen to come and reside at the court of Denmark; though, from my influence with the king, I might undoubtedly have procured appointments, which would have fully compensated them for leaving their native country; and though this measure might also have been of great advantage to me, as it would have furnished me with a number of friends, who would have been always ready on the spot, to counteract any designs of my enemies against me; yet, rather than give any umbrage to the king my husband's subjects, I determined to forego both the advantage and satisfaction which would have resulted from such a step. The pleasure which the king would naturally feel, from seeing me beloved by his subjects, as by himself, was also a strong motive to my endeavour of cultivating the esteem of the people in general; and even the consideration of my own interest, would surely have been sufficient,

alone, to induce me to take every step in my power, tending to the accomplishment of this design. I have nothing farther to add on the subject of this charge, than that it is as void of foundation as any of the rest.

The remaining accusation against me is, that of my having introduced balls and masquerades into a court, which has always, till now, been famed for its abhorrence of all such scenes of debauchery; (as my accusers are pleased to term them) and the purity of whose manners, has been ever looked on as well worthy of imitation. In this accusation there is one thing more particularly observable, which is, that it charges me with the introduction of amusements destructive of virtue; although these very amusements are countenanced and encouraged in most of the courts in Europe, as being not only destitute of every hurtful quality, but also as promoting trade and manufactures. There is also another circumstance worthy of note in this charge against me; which
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is, that it contains some degree of truth ; a requisite of which (though absolutely essential in every accusation) all the other charges against me are totally devoid. The following state of the circumstances of this affair is submitted to your lordship's consideration. The public diversions which were exhibited, in consequence of my marriage with the king, had insensibly created a taste for those amusements, in the breasts of many persons of the court. And when those exhibitions had ceased, and all things were returned to their ordinary channel, some of the above persons applied to me for my interest with his majesty, towards obtaining permission for the renewal of those diversions at stated times, and under certain regulations. I promised them to solicit the king on the subject of their request ; and in a few days after made good my promise. The king complied with my desire in the most obliging manner ; and from this time, the diversions here complained of became the almost constant amuse-

amusement of the greatest part of the court. But before I made this application to the king, I requested the queen Dowager's opinion concerning the propriety of the step; she told me, in answer, that she did not see the least impropriety in it; and very readily offered to join with me in the application, in case his majesty should make the least hesitation to grant the request. But this is a circumstance, which I shall have occasion to take notice of again before the conclusion of my letter. Thus, from what has been premised, it must appear very plainly, that the bad consequences (if any such there were) arising from the introduction of the above-mentioned diversions, cannot, with any justice, be laid to my account; as I only acted in the affair at the desire, and by the advice of others, being quite ignorant of the general sentiments of the Danes with regard to such amusements. But I shall not scruple to acknowledge, that I was as desirous of obtaining the king's
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concurrence on this occasion, as any of the other parties concerned could be.

I have now finished the remarks which I proposed making, on both the capital, as well as the less material accusations laid against me ; as also on the proceedings instituted against me, in consequence of the charges of the first denomination ; in the course of which, I think, I have proved (as far as negatives can possibly be proved) that all but one of the said charges are totally groundless ; that in regard to this charge, which I admit to have some foundation, ignorance, and not design, led me into the commission of the fault ; and I have also proved, that the proceedings against me in the court of enquiry were destitute, in every circumstance, both of justice and reason. But whether I have produced satisfactory proofs on the various heads above-mentioned, I submit to your lordship's decision.

And now, my lord, as you will naturally expect me to assign some motive for the cruel and unjust treatment I have
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experienced from my foes. I shall acquaint your lordship with a series of circumstances, which will easily account for their conduct throughout the whole affair. I have hitherto used the general term of "enemies," whenever I had occasion to make mention of those persons, who, by their intrigues and machinations, have brought upon me the disgrace under which I at this time so undeservedly lay. I therefore acquaint your lordship, that by the said term, I have always meant the persons of the queen Dowager, her son prince Frederick, and those of the nobility and others, who lent their assistance to bring about the late revolution. And here I shall lay before your lordship some circumstances of the conduct of the above persons which I have made no mention of hitherto, and shall also recall to your memory, a few of such as I have already made the subject of my remarks, but on which I promised, in a former part of this letter, to make some further observations. The conduct of the queen Dowager

Dowager, on this occasion, will furnish the chief matter for my animadversions, as I look upon her to have been the grand spring, by which the motions of all the rest of the party were directed; but I shall not omit to make also some few remarks on the conduct of one or two of the other persons concerned. To begin then with my strictures on the queen Dowager's behaviour: on my first arrival at the Danish court, I found myself received by her majesty with all the marks of friendship and affection; but, as from the almost certain bar, the king's marriage with me, seemed to put to any hopes she might have conceived of her son Prince Frederick's ever succeeding to the throne; I had concluded, that she would have treated me in a very different manner; it required no great knowledge of the arts practised in courts, to lead me to conjecture, that the above professions were, in their nature, suspicious. I did, accordingly, doubt for some time of their sincerity; but, at length, I laid

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aside all my diffidence, and conceived
 an affection for her majesty as true, as
 that which she seemed to entertain for
 me was false. From this period of
 time I put myself under the entire gui-
 dance of her majesty, and consulted
 her constantly on every occasion of con-
 sequence. The first material subject
 on which I needed her advice, was that
 of the application made to me (as I
 mentioned in a former part of this
 letter) by some of the principal persons
 of the court, for my interest with the
 king, to obtain a renewal of some cer-
 tain public diversions. On this occasion
 she strongly counselled me to comply
 with the above request, urging the ser-
 vice it would do my interest with those
 persons; and assuring me, that if the
 king hesitated in the least to yield to my
 solicitations, she would join her in-
 treaties to mine; but studiously avoided
 giving me the least hint of that dislike
 which the Danes had to that sort of en-
 tertainments. Her conduct on this oc-
 casion answered a double purpose, as, on
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the one hand, it served to ingratiate herself with me still more than ever; and, on the other hand, as she knew the great offence which the renewal of the above diversions would give to the nation in general; and (consequently) the ill-will which would result to me, from its being once known that I was the cause of such renewal. There was one circumstance in her conduct, which, when I became better acquainted with the genius of the country, furnished matter of great wonder to me: this was the eagerness with which she pressed me to coincide in any proposal that was made, in which show and expence were concerned. But I accounted for this eagerness, on the principle of her wishing to make my situation as agreeable as possible, by the introduction of those amusements, for which I had never denied my fondness, and to which I have been so much accustomed in my own country. I have found since full cause to alter my opinion; and am now convinced, that the motive to her be-

haviour in this, as well as in every other
 case, was nothing less than an intention
 of doing me every prejudice possible in
 the minds of the people. During the
 time in which the king my husband
 was in England, her majesty gave a most
 extraordinary proof of that fitness for
 court intrigues which she was possessed
 of, in quality of her expertness in the
 art of dissimulation; the matter was
 thus: she would frequently make the
 too common infidelity of the married
 men in England to their wives the sub-
 ject of her conversation, when we were
 alone; and, in the course of such con-
 versation, she would sometimes be very
 prodigal of her praises of my accom-
 plishments, and express hopes (which
 to me seemed nearly bordering on fears)
 that the king would not suffer himself
 to be infected by the pestilential air
 of that court. In a short time after, her
 majesty began to throw out obscure
 hints against the conduct of the king,
 and at length went so far as to mention
 the names of some persons in London,
 with

with whom she pretended to have certain intelligence, the king had formed a dishonourable connection. Here again I was the dupe of her artifice; for whilst I mourned in secret the inconstancy, I supposed his majesty to be guilty of, my heart overflowed with gratitude to the queen Dowager, for the recent proof which she had (as I imagined) given me of her affection. Yet this attempt of her's, to create a family difference between his majesty and me, did not meet with the success which she doubtlessly expected from it; for when I reflected, that expostulations with the king, on this subject, would be of no avail, I determined to adopt a quite contrary plan, and (concealing from him the intimations I had received of his misconduct) to endeavour, by my usual tenderness, to regain his estranged affections. In consequence of this determination, I met the king, at his return, with as much apparent fondness as I had expressed for him at his departure. His majesty (who had been carefully informed

formed of my knowledge of his frailty, (and consequently expected a very different kind of reception) seemed to be in doubt of the reality of my professions; but finding that I never threw out the least innuendo on the subject of his late conduct, he at length divested himself of his suspicions, and from that time his affection for me seemed to encrease hourly. Soon after the king's return from his travels my eyes were partly opened with regard to the artifices of the queen Dowager, by the following incident. A post of some little consequence being become vacant, her majesty desired me to beg it of the king, for a person whom she named to me: it was in vain that I represented to her, that I had never once, from my first arrival, intermeddled in the disposal of offices, on account both of my inability to judge of the merits of such candidates as had offered themselves at various times; and also, as I had resolved never to attempt infringing on a right, which was so properly lodged in the

the hands of the king. I say, it was in vain for me to urge these considerations, as reasons for my wishing to decline being concerned in this affair; for her majesty solicited me so strongly on the subject, that I found myself obliged, at length, to comply with her desire. The cause she assigned for being so earnest in the matter was, that she had been applied to on the occasion by a nobleman, in favour of another person, whom she knew to be quite unfit for the office. Yet as the noble lord was of an ancient and powerful family, that she did not chuse to give him an absolute refusal, more especially as she laid under some particular obligations to his lordship. She also desired that I would not let it be known, on any account, that she had made any application to me on the subject, lest it should come to the ears of the abovementioned nobleman; and concluded with assuring me, that her sole motive for recommending this person was, that she looked upon him to be the best qualified for the office of
any

any person about the court. To make short of the affair, I applied to the king on the subject, who granted my request without hesitation; and, in a very few days after, I learnt that the queen Dowager herself had assured the aforesaid nobleman, that her reason for not applying to the king on this occasion was, that when she had casually mentioned the matter to me, I expressed the greatest desire to obtain the above place for the person whom the king (at my request) had since appointed to it; and that I had even solicited her to join with me in the said request; yet at the same time acknowledged, that my intentions on the subject were totally unknown to every one but her majesty. Her design in such conduct was plainly this; to prepossess the above nobleman with an opinion, that I had been actuated throughout this whole affair solely by a desire of counteracting his lordship's views. The last circumstance of her majesty's conduct, on which I shall animadvert, is, that of her having more parti-

regularly abetted (or rather raised) the charge against me, of being criminally connected with count Struensee. As the necessary consequence of my being convicted on this charge would have been my eternal banishment from court (if not from the world) it is in no respect difficult to assign the motives to this part also of her conduct. The motives by which her majesty was apparently guided in all the above-mentioned circumstances (except the last) of her conduct, were merely secondary; but the grand primary inducement to such her conduct was (I will assert it) the intention she had conceived of removing me for ever from the king, my husband's presence. And in this evil design she has but too well succeeded. There is one of the accusations against me, of which I promised (in a former part of my letter) to take some further notice. This is the charge of criminality with count Struensee. I have only to observe on this

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subject,

subject, that it was a master-stroke of policy, to fix the date of the commencement of such criminal intercourse, as subsequent to the birth of the prince, my son; for had they insinuated any thing to the prejudice of his legitimacy, it would have been a strong presumption of an intention of altering the succession to the throne; and of such an intention, there are several circumstances in this letter, which prove the great probability; at least the behaviour of the queen Dowager, count Rantzau, and colonel Roller (which I have already observed on) at the time of my arrest, is not one of those circumstances which should induce a belief of the contrary.

I have now come to a conclusion, and hope your lordship will excuse the trouble I have given you, as it was caused by an ardent desire in me to justify my conduct to your lordship; and, through you, to my country in general:

your

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your lordship will excuse the errors naturally attendant on a female pen, and believe me sincere, when I assure you that I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

Very obliged humble Servant.

POST.

POSTSCRIPT.

UPON a revival of what I have written, it strikes me with the greatest surprize, to find that I have omitted to make the least remark on an accusation, laid by my enemies against me, which is equally replete with malignity, as with falsehood. The accusation I mean is, that of having advised his majesty to dismiss the Swiss guards from their attendance on his person, and to incorporate them with his other troops. For the falsehood of this charge against me, I can appeal to the whole court; who well know, that this measure was taken not at my instigation, but at the queen Dowager's. Its malignity will appear from the motive my enemies have assigned for my taking this step; which was, that I might, by removing the body guards, accomplish my designs against the king with the greater facility. At the same time that I aver that I had not the least concern in bringing about this measure, I acknowledge, that the mea-

measure itself met with my utmost approbation : my reasons for approving of it were, first, the bad state of the treasury, which, I was told, was at a very low ebb ; and, secondly, the preference which I thought the king's native subjects were entitled to, in the article of guarding his person. With regard to the motive alledged by my enemies, it is weak as well as false ; for as it is very apparent that, even if I had been engaged in such a design, I could not hope for any assistance from the national troops ; it would have been the height of absurdity in me, to have sought the removal of those guards, from whose assistance alone I could have expected success in such enterprize. The event has partly proved that such must have been the motive of those who procured the above measure to be taken ; but your lordship must perceive, that, for the reasons above recited, I could not possibly be concerned in the affair.

F I N I S.

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G I N I G

